TL1635

SCHOOL PROJECT

DARWIN EAST TIMORESE TETUN SCHOOL

NO. 7

The children of Darwin East Timorese School

JAPANESE SUPPORTING COMMITTEE
FOR DARWIN EAST TIMORESE SCHOOL
28th NOVEMBER 1993

The children of
Darwin East Timorese School

10th August 1993

0 Introduction

A representative of Japanese Supporting committee for Darwin East Timorese School made the fifth visit to Dawin from Aug.8(Sun) to Aug.13(Fri), 1993.

The representative also visited Ms. Elaine Briere in Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada. Ms.Briere is a member of "East Timor Alert Network of Canada" in Vancouver. As a photographer she stayed in East Timor in 1974 and took many impressive pictures there. We arranged the application format for the big donation proposed by "Automobile Labor Union of Canada".

On Aug.28(Sat) in San Francisco, our representative met Lawyer Anne Treseder who is a member of "US East Timor Action Network" there, and Ms.Clara Landeio, who is a portuguese environmentalist. We discussed how to realize "US Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School".

"School Project No.7" is to report how the things are going with the project, our activities in Aug. 1993, and the expansion of the international support movement. We thank you for those material and spiritual aids offered by you.

We believe that the primary task of Japanese citizens' movement as to the case of East Timor is as follows.

(1) To publicly apologize the occupation of Timor Island made by Japanese Army during the World War II.

(2) To regret and reconsider the false policy of Japanese Government, because it has economically and diplomatically supported the brutal deed of Suharuto dictatorship in Indonesia, which collapsed "East Timor Democratic Republic" by military forces. This republic declared the independence on Nov, 28, 1975.

(3) To demand Indonesia's instant and unconditional withdrawal from East Timor and to demand the Japanese Government to change its wrong policy, paying the reparations as well as Portugal and Indonesia.

Now it is necessary to act concretely in order to take our war-responsibility or to make international contribution.

1 How the things are going with School Project and the support from Japan
----from preliminary stages to systematic organization.

(1) Weekend Saturday School managed by LAFAEK (East Timorese community in Darwin) started.

<History of Darwin East Timorese School.>

1989 Jan.	Plans for Tetun Language class, construction of East Timorese school and Cultural Center in Darwin were discussed.
1989 Mar.	Government of the Northern Territory of Australia

approved The East Timorese Reserch and Information Center as a tax-free coporation.

1989 Aug. Start of the school. Some refugee children gathered in the living room of Mr. Agio Pereira's rented house after school.
Teacher; Ms. Lurdes Perira
The first support of Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School. --Stationery, East Timor legend books issued by Austronesia Borja da Costa Foundation (Fundasao Austronesia Borja da Costa), recorders and so on. The first financial aid.

1990 Aug. Some dozen of children continued to study in the living room of Mr. Jose Adriano Gusmao's rented house after school.
Teacher; Mrs. Maria Fatima Gusmao
The second support of Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School.

1991 Aug. Some refugee children continued to study in the garden of Mr. Jose·Adriano Gusmao's rented house after school.
Teacher; Mr. & Mrs. Gusmao
The third support of Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School.

1992 Aug. At the building on a lease of LAFAEK, about twenty refugee students continued to study East Timor culture.
Teacher; Mr. Jose Adriano Gusmao (Tetun, ethnic dance),
Ms. Veronica·Maia (ethnic music, weaving of Tais - ethnic textile)
The fouth support of Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School (JSCDETS).

1993 Aug. Systematic East Timorese school opened at LAFAEK building on lease. Children come to the school every Saturday from pm4:00 to 7:00 at stated period. We formed a budget bill for 6 months (24 weeks) Tetun language class. English version of Tetun language textbook was compiled. 45 students were formally registered.

The fifth support of Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School.

(2) Sum total of the donation from Japanese Supporting Committee

--- The amount enough to make the first stage of schoolhouse.

The sum total of the donation by 1993 had reached about A$30,000.-. In spring 1993, Education Department of Japanese Protestant Christian Coalition (National Christian Council in Japan · NCC) subscribed about A$40,000 through the local bank, and the representative of Japanese Supporting Committee contributed A$20,000 this time. So the total amounted to A$90,000, that is about ¥7,000,000, and the sum which can afford the construction of the first stage schoolhouse.

(3) As to the site (a block of land) for Darwin East Timorese School

--The first answer from The Australian Federal Government, and our second demand to the Federal Government·The Northern Territory Government.

In 1992, after our fourth visit, the delegate of East Timorese refugee negotiated with the Federal Government for rentfree offer of a block of land for the schoolsite via Warren Snowdon MHR, the land which situated near the building on a lease of LAFAEK, LAFAEK now borrows the building at cheap rent from the Northern Territory Government.

At first this negociation seemed to bear fruit, but finally the Federal Government rejected to offer us the land.

On Aug. 11 (Wed) we visited the office of Mr. Warren Snowdon MHR from pm2:30 to pm3:30 and met his secretary Mr. Brian Doolan.

According to Mr. Doolan, if the school were built at the site which we requested, the radar of Australian Air Force would be jammed. So the government can't offer the land for 10 years.

We can't wait the construction of the schoolhouse for 10 years. The delegate of East Timorese refugee and we made a petition for offer of suitable land and for the classroom until completion of the school house.

After that (from 4:00 to 5:00) we visited the office of the Northern territory Trade & Labor Council and requested Mr. Mark Crossin, secretary, to help our school project. He promised us to add demand of rentfree schoolsite to their Union's request.

As for rentfree offer of schoolsite, we appealed both to the Federal Government and to the Northern Territory Government on the occasion of press, TV, and radio interview. Those refugees in Darwin told us that they would make their best to obtain rentfee schoolsite together with Australian supporters.

(4) Secretariat of Japanese Supporting Committee held a conference with East Timorese parents.
——An budget of 6 months' management fee for LAFAEK weekend school and an effort to reduce the deficit.

On the evening of Aug. 10 (Tue), some 35 children, parents, and Australian supporters came together in front of LAFAEK building, giving Tetun language class.

They said that 45 East Timorese children are formally registered in the regular Tetun class now. This Tetun class is regularly held on every Saturday.

In the temporary classroom, stationery and Japanese traditional craft work such as wind-bells and ornamental hand balls were presented from Japanese Supporting Committee. After that we held a dinner party, each parent bringing one dish.

After the dinner party, we held a meeting to hear the request for the school project. Although it was already past pm 9:00, some 20 parents and supporters gathered and discussed earnestly. We listened to their desire for Japanese support on the school project, communicating in English.

The refugees requested that the support should be done not to a particular political party but to the whole East Timorese refugees and that not only for the school house but for the everyday's management expenses of the school. Now the school management shows a loss. They gave a budget of the 6 month's Tetun class management expenses at LAFAEK.

The expenses amount to A$10, 000, on the other hand, expected income is only A$6, 000. So even if the teachers should contribute whole their pay, about A$4,000 deficit would be expected.

In addition to these requests, they said that they want to hand down their ethnic culture such as songs, dances and weaving Tais besides Tetun language education. We could get a lot of suggestive ideas at this meeting.

It was extremely significant that we could hear frank opinions not only from FRETILIN members but also from the other East Timorese with various political opinions.

Our formal view is as follows. Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School donates school fund for the whole community of East Timorese refugees in Darwin and not for the particular political party. JSCDETS would like to discuss supporting everyday management expense from now on.

On Aug. 12 (Thu) we talked on the live broadcast show of Top End FM titled "East Timor Hour" presided by Mr. &. Mrs. Branco, who had attended our conference. We explained our school project and Japanese newborn cabinet, whose Prime Minister is Mr. Hosokawa.

On this program, we stressed our above mentioned policy and donated A$2,000, that is the half amount of school management deficit, to LAFAEK.

On the morning of Aug. 13 Mr. Branco came to Darwin Air Port with the recorded tape to see us off. The reason why we supported only half of the deficit is that we hoped their selfhelp effort in the future. (We will refer to it precisely afterward)

[E-Mail] JAPANESE SCHOOL SUPPOTER MEETS DARWIN TIMORESE COMMNITY

On 10 August 93, Mr Takahashi from the Japanese Supporting Committee for the Darwin East Timorese School presided a meeting with members of the Lafaek Timorese Association and other members of the Darwin East Timorese community. The meeting was convened to discuss the Timorese School project funded by his organisation.

Present at the meeting were members of the Timorese Community, CNRM and Fretilin.

Jose Branco, president of the Timorese Association Inc. LAFAEK, told Mr. Takahashi that the Association had started a Tetun School with the cooperation of the members of the East Timorese community.

The scool aims to :
* teach the Tetum language to East Timorese children;
* promote East Timorese cultures;
* enhance inter-generational communication between young and older East Timorese; * help to unite the East Timorese refugee community in Darwin.

Jose Branco also appealed for financial and logistic support for the school, and presented the budget for the school to Mr Takahashi.

Mr Takahashi outlined the aims and objectives of the Japanese Supporting Committee for the Darwin East Timorese School which he represents. He said that the main goal of his organisation is to support a school that teachs Tetum, as it is the core of East Timorese cultural identity in need of preservation.

Mr Takahashi added that the school fund provided by his organisation is aimed to benefit all Timorese refugees in Darwin, independently of any particular political party affiliations.

Mr Takahashi and Mrs Takahashi then presented the school a 'kokeshi' traditional wooden doll,and a 'furin' japanese traditional bell.Mrs Takahashi also taught the students to make 'orizuru' peace symbols.

The meeting ended with Mr Takahashi collecting a variety of opinions from participants in the project so as to convey them to the Japanese Supporting Committee.He also pledged continuing support for the Lafaek Tetum School and appealed to everyone,both in Japan as well as elsewhere,to provide their generous support for this valuable initiative.

TETUN CLASSES

BUDGET FOR "6" MONTHS

EXPENDITURE

	RATE/HOUR	W/HOURS	S/TOTAL
VENUE HIRE	$15.00	2	$ 30.00
TEACHER'S FEE	$17.00	4*3	$204.00
STATIONARY	-		$ 40.00
FOOD DRINKS	-		$ 25.00
TRANSPORT	-		$ 10.00
ADMIN. COST	-		$ 25.00
OUTDOOR ACTIV.	-		$ 40.00
DOCUMENTATION	-		$ 50.00
ADDED S/TOTAL * ESTIMATED 24 WEEKS IN 6 MONTHS			$10176.00

INCOME

LAFAEK CONTRIBUTION	$1000.00
DONATIONS	$ 100.00
INTEREST FROM TRUST ACCOUNT	$
TEACHER'S FEE (VOLUTARY CONTRIBUTION)	$4896.00
OTHERS	$
	$5996.00
ADDED S/TOTAL / ESTIMATED 24 WEEKS IN 6 MONTHS	DEFICIT $4180.00

($5996.00-$10176.00=$4180.00)

(Although the teachers worked free of charge, the financial report shows about ¥310,000 deficit. The total expenditure amounted to ¥710,000.)

(5) An appeal to Australian people, especially those in Northern Territory, for support to the school project.

a) Aug. 9 (Mon) Press Release
Ms. Jennifer Searcy, who works for Campaign for prevention of custodial death, cooperated with us to draft and send our press release. In this press release, we announced that Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School was visiting Australia at that time and made an appeal for fomation of Australian Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School. Ms. Searcy, who lives in Perth of Western Australia, was staying in Darwin to attend the academic meeting for criminal law then. Mr. Rob Wesley Smith, who is active for East Timorese rights, assured us that he would take responsibility for the liaison office. Mr. Wesley has been our trustworthy Australian friend since Dec. 1986.

MEDIA RELEASE

TIMORESE

SCHOOL PROJECT

Japanese visitor to Australia Mr Michio Takahashi is in Darwin as secretary general of Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School to request help from Australians with advice and practical assistance in organising a Australian Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School.

It is of great importance that East Timorese should preserve their culture and language (Tetun) and for this to happen a continual source of funding must be available.

So far money has been donated only in Japan but organisations in Canada, USA and Italy are preparing to assist in the project. It is hoped that Australia as Timors closest neighbour will feel a moral responsibility to contribute generously to this worthwhile cause.

The overall plan is to finally have schools in all locations where there are sufficient numbers of East Timorese children to justify this but as the greatest number of these children live in northern Australia the initial concentration will be on the Darwin School.

At this stage the school will operate only in the late afternoons and weekends but ultimately it is hoped it will be open full-time for adult education and as a cultural centre.

Mr Takshashi asks for all to please give generously with time, ideas and money.

For further information phone/fax 089-832113 August 9, 1993

b) Aug. 10 (Tue) National—wide broadcasting by Australian ABC Radio.

Some of our East Timorese friends let us know that ABC Morning News was reporting on Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School.

c) Aug. 11 (Wed) An interview with Mr. Gordon Feeney of Australian Associated Press (AAP)

AAP made contact with us and we agreed to have interview with him at our hotel. To his question why we support the school project, we referred to Japanese responsibility of three and a half years' occupation of Timor island during the World War II and explained our intention to help the Timorese as citizens' movement NGO. Small as our support may be, we would like to make concrete contribution forcing Japanese government to change its policy. Our report continued as follows. The total sum of the school fund amounted to A$93,000, which enable us to construct the first stage shool house. If the Federal Government of Australia or Northern Territory State Government should offer a block of land to the community of East Timorese refugees, the construction of the school house would come true. We stressed the importance of the land support from the government.

c)—2 Aug. 11 (Wed) The West Australian newspaper reported the visit of two Japanese, Mr. Shouhachi Iwamura and Ms. Kiyoko Furusawa with photographs. They stayed in Perth. The news informed curiously the enemies during World War II, that is an old Japanese soldier and the old Australian soldier cooperate now for the independence of East Timor. In this article our school project was related by Mr. Iwamura.

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THE WEST AUSTRALIAN WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11 1993 3

Timor unites former foes

By ANDRE MALAN

FIFTY years after they were locked in fierce combat against the Japanese on East Timor, a group of Australian war veterans have joined forces with an enemy officer — to rid the former battleground of a new invader.

The commandos of the 2/2 Independent Company, drawn mainly from WA, retreated to the mountains and waged a highly successful guerilla war against the Japanese after Allied forces elsewhere in Asia had surrendered or were driven to retreat. The commandos' survival depended heavily on the support of East Timorese helpers and ever since the 1975 Indonesian invasion of East Timor, the veterans have lobbied relentlessly for a tougher Australian stance against Jakarta's aggression.

Yesterday, over beer and sandwiches at a Perth hotel, members of the 2/2 Commando Association welcomed Shohachi Iwamura, a former Japanese officer in East Timor who has been waging a similar campaign in his country.

The meeting created considerable soul-searching among some of the association members, who had to overcome ill-feeling against the Japanese in order to attend.

However, the dignified Japanese visitor read an emotional statement to his former enemies in which he expressed his "respect and brotherly affection" for the Australians and called for solidarity in support of East Timor.

Mr Iwamura acknowledged that men under his command had raped Timorese women and caused the deaths of men press-ganged into working for the Japanese.

● Asia Desk, page 11

ALLIANCE: Shohachi Iwamura, a former Japanese officer in East Timor, with members of the WA branch of 2/2 Commando Association. Picture: NIC ELLIS

War foes unite over country left behind

☐ Fifty years ago, the Portuguese colony of East Timor was the scene of fierce fighting between Australian commandos and Japanese invaders.

☐ But some of the old enemies have now found a common cause in East Timor. ANDRE MALAN reports on an emotional meeting in Perth yesterday.

WITH shaking hands, but a clear voice, Shohachi Iwamura yesterday made peace with his enemies of 50 years ago.

In halting English, the dignified retired engineer from the Japanese city of Osaka read from a prepared statement: "Fifty years ago, I was forced to meet you as an enemy in East Timor, but now I want to express my respect and brotherly affection for you.

"I am alive today and able to meet you because the Timorese people helped me and fed me, as they did you, when we were in need.

"Now we are no longer enemies, and I am proud to be your comrade and friend. Thank you."

Listening to this over beer and sandwiches at a Perth hotel were about 20 timeworn Australian veterans who once would have happily killed their visitor.

"I don't think I ever saw his face in my sights," one of them whispered. "If I had he wouldn't have been here today."

There was no malice in the quip, just a healthy dose of the seasoned larrikinism that old soldiers try on each other when they get together.

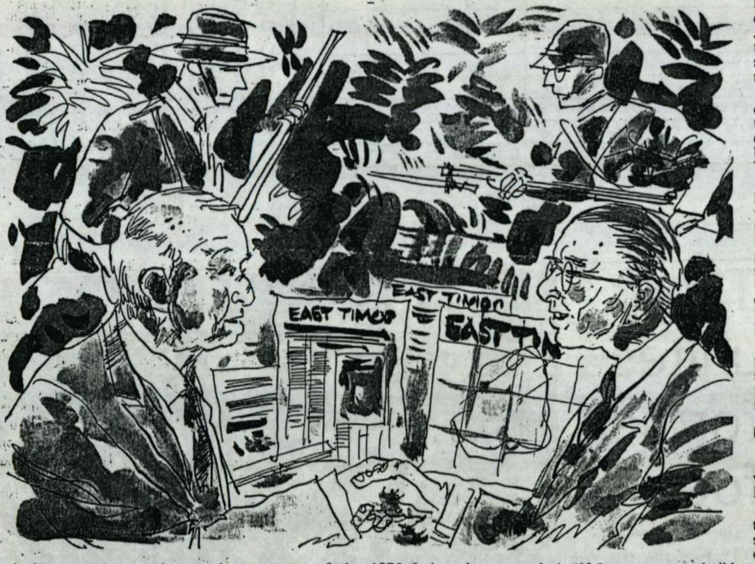
The same man later remarked: "It can't have been easy for him to come here. I admire his guts."

Nevertheless, it had not been an easy matter for members of the 2/2 Commando Association to agree to host their Japanese visitor.

The association debated the matter long and hard and there were members who openly expressed their antagonism towards the Japanese because of atrocities the invaders committed in Timor and other islands during World War II.

As he posed for a picture with his guest yesterday, the association's president, Ted Monk, did not forget the 12 men in his section of 19 who had been killed by the Japanese.

Nor did Mr Iwamura evade the issue, openly admitting that men under his command had raped Timorese women and that many of the Timorese men mobilised to work for the Japanese had died of starvation because they were not given food.



But there is one issue strong enough to unite the men behind a single cause. In Osaka and in Perth, both sides have been working persistently and against heavy odds to promote the right to self-determination of the people in whose country they fought their battles in the 1940s.

Mr Iwamura was a 23-year-old platoon commander in the Japanese 48th Army Division when he arrived in Dili on a Japanese troopship in November 1942.

He was assigned to mopping up operations against Australian and Portuguese soldiers who had resorted to guerilla warfare in the hills of East Timor, as well as construction of roads and other military facilities.

Yesterday, he recalled several times coming into direct contact with the Australians in East Timor.

Once he was wounded in an exchange of fire when he went into the mountains to collect horses for the Japanese troops, and on another occasion he helped in the capture of two Australian intelligence officers who had been landed on the coast.

Mr Iwamura said that many Timorese women were raped by Japanese soldiers.

No action was taken against the rapists, but when he heard that men under his command had been guilty of assaulting Timorese women he forced the entire platoon to kneel on stones as an act of contrition.

When the war worsened for the Japanese, he was transferred to Java, Singapore and Burma before being sent home to a country left in ruins by US air attacks.

However, like many of his contemporaries, Mr Iwamura prospered during the Japanese post-war economic revival. He married, had two daughters and became a successful engineer.

The former soldier did not give much thought to Timor for the next 40 years until 1985, when he read an account of the 1975 Indonesian invasion of East Timor.

He joined an infant East Timorese independence support group in Japan and in 1987 he went to New York to make an emotional address to a United Nations special committee on decolonisation.

In tears, he told the committee: "In Japan I am simply one elderly citizen, but I am determined never to forget the crimes Japan committed in World War II and to act on what I have learnt from bitter experience.

"It is painful to speak today of the sacrifices and burdens we forced upon the East Timorese, a people who had nothing to do with the war."

He said that after the war the Japanese Government did not pay war reparations to East Timor on the ground that Portugal, the colonising power, was not an Allied country.

He noted that Japan had become Indonesia's biggest aid donor and remarked: "If Japan wants to build real friendship with Indonesia it should tell that country, 'we know from experience that no country can escape the judgment of history on a war of aggression'.

"And let the rest of us remember that grovelling before the strong, while cutting down the weak, is the way of fascism.

"I have learnt much about this issue from young people in Japan who support the East Timorese.

"I have learnt that the big powers, because of narrow national interests, close their eyes to the injustices committed by Indonesia."

The battle for the rights of East Timorese is one that has not been forgotten by members of the 2/2 Commando Association and other veterans who fought against the Japanese on Timor.

A mob of knockabout volunteers, drawn largely from WA, the 2/2 Independent Company was sent to secure East Timor.

Faced with overwhelming odds, they made an orderly retreat into the mountainous interior of the colony and conducted an unremitting guerilla war against the enemy.

Against far superior numbers, the handful of Australians maintained effective opposition against the Japanese at a time when Allied forces elsewhere in Asia had surrendered or been driven into retreat.

The survival of the Australians depended on the heroic support of the East Timorese and the wartime experience forged close bonds between the soldiers and the Timorese.

After the Indonesian invasion of East Timor, the veterans became a vocal lobby group in favour of a firmer Australian stand against Indonesia's aggression. But their protests have fallen on deaf ears as successive Australian governments have put the diplomatic and economic relationship with Indonesia ahead of the rights of the East Timorese.

However, with the same persistence they displayed as soldiers, the veterans, most of them now in their 70s or older, have refused to give up.

THEY continue to lobby hard, and to supply books and other aid to the East Timorese — when they can get the goods past Indonesian officialdom.

Yesterday, Mr Iwamura was able to give them guarded good news. He said the new Japanese Government contained a number of people who were sympathetic to the East Timorese cause and that the Diet — the Lower House of the Japanese Parliament — would in future give more consideration to the rights the East Timorese.

He and the Australian veterans also applauded a decision by the US State Department to reject a request by Jordan to sell ageing American F-5 jet fighters to Indonesia because of Jakarta's human rights record and other sensitive issues.

But nobody is optimistic enough to think that East Timorese independence is on the horizon.

Mr Iwamura yesterday told his Australian hosts of a plan by Japanese East Timor sympathisers who have collected more than $100,000 towards a special school for East Timorese expatriates in Darwin.

The idea is for East Timorese culture to be kept alive at the school in preparation for the day — if it comes — when the refugees reclaim their country.

Island in turmoil

April 1974: Left-wing officers stage coup in Lisbon and vow to end Portugal's empire.

August 1975: Pro-independence, left-wing nationalist group Fretilin takes control after brief civil war.

October 1975: Indonesian troops enter from West Timor. Five Australian reporters killed.

November 1975: Fretilin declares independence.

December 1975: Indonesia, fearing a communist enclave, invades Dili. A sixth Australian journalist is reported killed.

July 1976: Indonesia annexes East Timor.

1982: UN does not recognise Indonesian rule but declines to debate the issue.

1985: Amnesty International reports widespread human rights abuses by Indonesian forces and estimates 200,000 East Timorese killed.

September 1990: Arrests of at least 150 activists result in allegations of torture.

February 1991: Australian parliamentary delegation accepts claims of human rights abuses.

October 26, 1991: UN-Portuguese trip cancelled after Indonesia refuses Australian journalist entry.

October 28, 1991: Amnesty International alleges armed forces murdered two men in church.

November 12, 1991: Security forces fire on memorial

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ASIA DESK

(After we got to Japan, Ms. Kiyoko Furusawa of Tokyo—Osaka East Timor Society informed us that Australian 2/2 Corps Association in Perth proposed to push the Federal Government to support the school project. We could make sure on this point by talking with Mr. Iwamura on the phone.)

d) Aug. 12 (Thr) Northern Territory News, a daily newspaper in Northern Territory, printed our news on page 6.

Darwin East Timorese School 10th August 1993

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		DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCIAS			
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NEWS Northern Territory News, Thursday, August 12, 1993

Japanese help for Timor school

A sense of national shame over Japan's treatment of the people of Timor during World War II has prompted a Japanese businessman to raise more than $90 000 for a school for Darwin's Timorese population.

Michio Takahashi wants to build the school to ensure the preservation of the East Timorese culture and language — called Tetun — for the refugees who have made Darwin their home.

Some 3000 East Timorese have settled in, or have been born in Darwin since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1976.

Visiting Darwin to promote the school project, Mr Takahashi said the preservation of language and culture was vital to the exiled East Timorese.

"The national identity is very important to any people, and to learn the national language of Tetun is at the core of the East Timorese national identity," Mr Takahashi said today.

He urged Australians to support the project.

d) −2 Aug. 12 (Thr) The West Australian, a newspaper in West Australia, reported the same kind of article.

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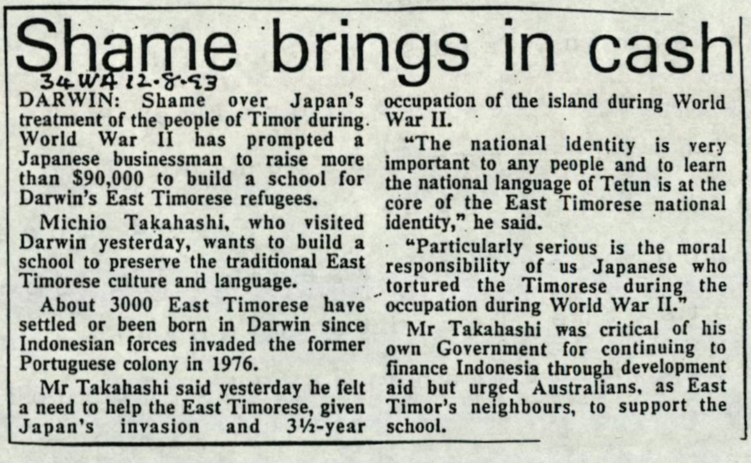
産経新聞		PÚBLICO			
		DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCAS			
The West Australian			○	世界	
				経済評論	



Shame brings in cash

34 WA 12-8-93

DARWIN: Shame over Japan's treatment of the people of Timor during World War II has prompted a Japanese businessman to raise more than $90,000 to build a school for Darwin's East Timorese refugees.

Michio Takahashi, who visited Darwin yesterday, wants to build a school to preserve the traditional East Timorese culture and language.

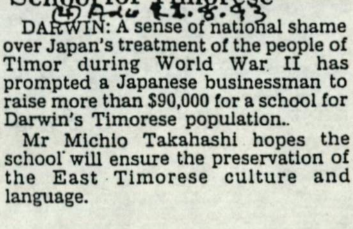
About 3000 East Timorese have settled or been born in Darwin since Indonesian forces invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1976.

Mr Takahashi said yesterday he felt a need to help the East Timorese, given Japan's invasion and 3½-year occupation of the island during World War II.

"The national identity is very important to any people and to learn the national language of Tetun is at the core of the East Timorese national identity," he said.

"Particularly serious is the moral responsibility of us Japanese who tortured the Timorese during the occupation during World War II."

Mr Takahashi was critical of his own Government for continuing to finance Indonesia through development aid but urged Australians, as East Timor's neighbours, to support the school.



School for Timorese

(4) Adv 12.8.93

DARWIN: A sense of national shame over Japan's treatment of the people of Timor during World War II has prompted a Japanese businessman to raise more than $90,000 for a school for Darwin's Timorese population..

Mr Michio Takahashi hopes the school will ensure the preservation of the East Timorese culture and language.

e) Aug. 12 (Thr) Local Television of Northern Territory (channel 8) broadcasted the land problem of our school project.

Japanese businessman apologize for his country's behavior during World War II.
Mr. Takahashi now wants to build a school in Darwin for East Timorese, has raised more than $90,000. for the project.
Mr. Takahashi was so upset by his government's action during World War II. He decided an apology was in order.
Timor was hit by the Japanese around the same time with the bombing of Darwin more than 50 years ago.
The businessman wants to build a school as a gift. He hopes to reserve East Timorese culture and language.
Mr. Takahashi has so far raised more than $90,000. for his special project.
He now wants the Territory Government donate a block of land so the school can be built.
" "

Mr. Pinch welcome Japanese generosity.
He is not permitting his government to donate any land at this stage.
" "

Mr. Takahashi says he committed building the school and hopes East Timorese to accept his gift and apology.

f) Aug. 12 (Thr) Mr. Antonia Swimpaio, who works for Portuguese broadcasting station (S. B. S,) in Sydney, interviewed us by phone.

<Contents of the Interview>

We Japanese Citizen movement are highly concern not only about World War Ⅱ direct invation of Asian areas including Darwin and Timor Island but also Japanese goverment present support of Indonesia's invasion to East Timor indirectly by our big Official Development Aid.

So we Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School want to help build up Darwin East Timorese Tetun-language School for refugee's children to learn and preserve their national identity.

Because Tetun Language is the core of the East Timorese national identity.

We Japanese citizen movement do our best to support East Timorese.

So I hope All Australian support this School Project.
Especially Australian goverment give Darwin East Timorese a block of land to build the school.

Interview with Mr.& Mrs.Branco at the Studio of Top End FM

g) Aug. 12 (Thr) We appeared on "East Timor Hour" of Top End FM (pm9:00 to pm 10:00) in live.

Top End FM is a local broadcasting station in Darwin and sends one hour program titled "East Timor Hour" on the air toward East Timorese community every Thursday evening from pm 9:00 to pm 10:00. This program is presided by Mr. Jose Miranda Branco, the president of LAFAEK, and his wife Mrs. Maria Alice Branco who is responsible to cultural and art subcommittee of LAFAEK. This program offers East Timorese ethnic music, weekly news, and special edition on East Timor in Tetun language.

They said most of the East Timorese living in Darwin listen to this program.

Mr. & Mrs. Branco asked us to appear in "East Timor Hour" on the occasion of refugees parents' conference at LAFAEK building after the temporary Tetun language class on the evening of Aug. 10.

Questions and answers on the school project and on the recent change of Japanese political power

The First Chapter; On the project of Darwin East Timorese School

Alice Branco"Thank you for cominhg to the Temorese Radio Program in talking to the Timorese community. And thank you for coming so far away from Japan and to visit Darwin every year.

Would you like to tell us to reasons why you come to Darwin?"

Michio Takahashi"We japanese citizen movement are highly concern not only about World War II direct invasion of Asian areas including Darwin and Timor island but also japanese government present support of Indonesias invasion to East Timor indirectly by our japanese big Official Development Aid.

So we Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School want to help build up Darwin East Timorese Tetun-language School for Refugee's children to learn and preserve their national identity.

Because Tetun lunguage is the core of the East Timorese national identity.

We japanese citizen movement do our best to support East Timorese.
So I hope all Australian support this School Project.
Espessially Australian Government and all people in Australia give Darwin East Timorese a block of land to build up the school."

Alice"Of course we in Darwin try to support your effort in during that school. As you know the school has started.
Would you like to tell a little bit more about the fund raising that has happening bach in Japan and the organization that has supported a that school project?"

Michio"So the school project team in Japan?"

Alice"Yes the fundraising which organization has supported?"

Michio"About seven years before I first visited Darwin and every August in my japanese summer holiday I come to Darwin. Five years before I recognized that it is very important to support to build up the Tetun language school for all East Temorese refugees in Darwin.
So I organized in Japan Japanese Supporting Committee For Darwin East Temorese School and appealed to many japanese citezen movement to help the money to build up the Darwin East Temorese School."

Alice"I ask you which other countries have you been to beside Japan? Because we heard you have been doing the same campaign in Europe in America. Would you like to say a little bit more about it?"

Michio"Yes. Not only we do our best in Japan but also I participated the international-wide supporting meeting on East Timor. First February 1989 at Copenhagen Meeting I appealed this Darwin School and October 1989 in Canada Ottawa Carlton University internatinal meeting on East Timor I appealed (in that meeting with Ramos Horta and so on) and 1992 after the Santa-Curz massacre I participated the Geneva internatinal meeting on East Timor and this year(1993) Feburuary Amsterdam Meeting I appealed this Darwin School project again and again."

So now in Canada there is a Canadian Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School. The leader is Angelo Gonsalves.
And now USA and Italy start to fund raising for this project.
And this time I appeal Portgese and Australian to organize like this organization."

Alice"Mr. Takahashi would you like to tell a little bit more about the amount of money that are the organization have worked you have raised to are this?"

Michio"In Japan the school fund for this project we step by step to gather first a little money to fund raising. But last year the japanese NCC(National Christian Council in Japan or Japanese Protestant Coalition) supported this project ,only one year they gathered many money about 40,000 Australian dollars. And this one year we fund raising 20,000 Australian dollars.
So now School Project Fund became 93,000 Australian dollars. I hope this money use for the school building. That is the reason why I appeal Australian and government please give the land for this school."

Alice"As we have heard to money has gone up be raised from first till now these 8years 93,000 Australian Dollars for school building.
In sure the East Temorese kids are very pleased to know got that support from Japan ,Europe also America.
We now stop this interview and will come bach second part to talk more about other issues your point of view."

The Second Chapter;
The change of Japanese political power and East Timor

Alice"Mr. Takahashi now we move from the school. We know that Solidarity in Japan has increase every year. I would like to ask you to inform a little bit about Diet members forum on East timor. "

Michio"In Japan outside the citizen movement for soridality East Timor, Free East Timor! Japan Coalition, there is the Diet members forum on East Timor. This organization is organized by only parliamentlian.

And this time Japanese political situation was dramatically changed. The general election on 18th July, about four decades power LDP(Liberal Democlatic Party) conservative government lose The majority in the House of Representatives. So in this August we Japanese organized a new coalition cabinet opposing old LDP government. This new coalition government prime minister Mr. Hosokawa was elected by 7 parties plus 1 group.

And this time I infomed you that Ms. Takako Doi, the former top leader of SDPJ(So cial Democlatic Party of Japan) was elected to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Second point the new Cabinet was organized by these seven parties. And the Diet members forum on East Timor chairperson Ms. Manae Kubota (SDPJ) participated this new cabinet. Furthermore The Diet members forum on East Timor secretary general Mr. Satsuki Eda participated the cabinet.

So now the chairperson and the secretary general are inside the new cabinet. And Ms. Takako Doi(the Speaker of the House of Representative) is a member of the Diet members forum on East Timor.

This is a very good chance to change the japanese government policy for Indonesia and East Timor."

Alice"So we do change in government from we can say two biggest economic block like Japan economic power as well as the United States you think we do change American government Clinton and Japan government help in the Timor course. "

Michio"The President Clinton came to the Tokyo summit and at that time met the Indonesia's President Suharto. Clinton asked Suharto to change human right policy on East Timor. But Suharto Government don't Change any thing. So Clinton government prohibitted Jordan government resale of American weapon to Indonesia 29th July 1993. This is the first message from Clinton Government to Suharto Government.

If japanese citizen movement push new Hosokawa Government, we can change step by step Japan policy For Indonesia and East Timor.

USA and Japan have very big influence inside international political arena. We must use this chance to free East Timor."

Alice"Before I give you the last words, for you send a message to our community. I and our community would like to say thank you and all the groups has supported you for our Tetun school in Darwin. We appreciate your solidarity to in relation to East Timorese people. So now I will give you a last words."

Michio"Japanese supportinng committee for Darwin East Timorese school today want to danate Darwin East Timorese school(Tetun language school managing by Lafaek) 2, 000 Australian dollars.

I recieved the budget of the school the day before yesterday. I knew that the budget about 4, 000 Australian dollars minus ballanced. So I want to donate the half of the deficit."

Alice"Thank you Mr. Takahashi for the donation.

We hope to see you again next year and I hope you come again and visit our school and talk to our kids."

Michio"Thank you very much."

h) Aug. 17 (Tue) The Sydney Morning Herald inserted the article of Mr. Iwamura and Ms. Furusawa's visit to Sydney with photoes. In this article Mr. Iwamura referred to our school project for East Timorese in Darwin.

Now they're comrades in peace

By TONY STEPHENS

The old Japanese soldier bowed his politeness, in the Japanese way. He had come to Sydney to make his peace, but also to plan a new campaign of battle, in which the old enemies would fight on the same side.

The old Australian soldiers returned the politeness, while cracking a joke or two, in the Australian way.

They gave Mr Shohachi Iwamura the red badge of their commando association, as a token of friendship and a sign of time passing. He seemed grateful, calling them "comrades" and saying he was proud to be their friend.

Mr Iwamura had been wounded by Australians in Timor. Now, would the new comrades talk about old wars and old times over a drink?

"I think we'll talk more about the present times," said Mr Alan Luby, who had fought with the 2/2nd Commando Squadron in Timor against the Japanese.

Mr Iwamura was happy with that. He admits to Japanese atrocities during the war. Men under his command raped Timorese women and many Timorese men forced to work for the Japanese had died of starvation.

He welcomed Sunday's apology by the new Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Hosokawa, for his country's aggression. "It's very good news," said Mr Iwamura, "but it's too late."

Having accepted the past, Mr Iwamura wants to get on with the present. He went last night to befriend East Timorese living in Sydney, people like Mr Alexandre da Silva, who fought for Australia during the war.

East Timorese Alexandre da Silva, Japanese Shohachi Iwamura and Australian Alan Luby . . . campaigning for East Timor's independence. Picture by ANDREW TAYLOR

Mr Iwamura wants Australia and Japan to join together to take a case for the independence of East Timor to the United Nations.

He went to the UN Decolonisation Committee in 1987. "It is painful to speak today of the sacrifices and burdens we placed upon the East Timorese, a people who had nothing to do with the war . . . Yet, after the war, the Japanese Government paid no war reparations to East Timor.

"If we are human, we cannot ignore the tragedy of East Timor.

"Not only has Japan still not apologised or compensated the Timorese for our occupation, Japan is now the largest donor of economic aid to Indonesia. By thus backing the slaughter of the East Timorese, it is, I believe, committing a second crime."

When Allied forces in Asia surrendered or retreated before the advancing Japanese in World War II, the commandos headed for the hills and fought successfully as guerillas.

Mr Luby and two of his surviving colleagues, Mr Gordon Hart and Mr Dan O'Connor, agreed yesterday that they would not have survived without the help of the Timorese.

Mr Iwamura said Japanese supporters of East Timor had raised nearly $150,000 towards a special school in Darwin for East Timorese expatriates.

Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School			ページ	'93/ 8 / 17
朝日新聞	THE JAPAN TIMES		エコノミスト	
読売新聞	河北新報		朝日ジャーナル	
毎日新聞	社会新報			
日本経済新聞	カトリック新聞			
産経新聞	PÚBLICO			
	DIÁRIO DE NOTÍCAS			
The Sydney Morning Herald		○	世界	
			経済評論	

2 Donation from Canadian Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School

(1) Organization of Canadian Committee and information activities.

In Oct. of 1992 we, secretary of JSCDETS, conferred with Mr. David Webster and Mr. Angero Gonsalves, who is a member of Toronto branch of ETAN (East Timor Alert Network; National wide organization of Canadian citizen movement supporting East Timor). There we agreed to form Canadian Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School, Mr. Angelo Gonsalves being responsible to the committee.

Canadian Committee has already started its activity, issued and delivered information pamphlets, and appealed to Portuguese community in Toronto.

(2) Proposal for donation from Automobile Labor Union of Canada and its actualization.

Answering the appeal of Canadian Committee, Automobile Labor Union proposed to donate C$20,000 to Darwin East Timorese School on condition that we would fill the application form.

Secretariat of JSCDETS met Ms. Elaine Briere, a photographer and a member of Vancouver branch of ETAN, and her partner Mr. Dan Devoney, a painter, on Aug. 25, 1993. At that time we made arrangement to actualize Union's proposal and to make out the application form. We made contact with Mr. David Webster, a member of Toronto branch Mr. Martin Hardie, CNRM (Conselho Nacional da Resistancia Maubere — National Council of Maubere Resistance) legal adviser and a supporter of East Timorese community in Darwin, and concretely prepared to draw up and present the application form for Automobile Labor Union.

(3) Financial support for one hour TV documentary plan titled "Timor" by Ms. Elaine Briere from JSCDETS.

a) Project of one hour TV documentary titled "Timor" by Ms. Elaine Briere

Ms. Elaine Briere produced laborious one hour TV documentary on East Timor problem, and in this World Aborigine Year she planned and started information activities for East Timor.

b) Financial aid for "Timor" in prospect of its use as a teaching material at Darwin East Timorese school.

Secretariat of JSCDETS estimated the significance of this project, thought the documentary available for East Timorese school as a teaching material, and so donated C$1259.3 (¥100,000) for this project.

3 Formation of United States Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School

(1) Support from New York

In Oct. 1992, JSCDETS and Mr. Charles Scheiner, the coordinator of the head office of ETAN (East Timor Action Network USA) made conference and agreed to make ready for the organization of United States Supporting Committee. Mr. Charles Scheiner appealed to whole Americans through ETAN/USA News Letter.

(2) Realization in San Francisco

On Aug. 28 (Sat) 1993, secretariat of JSCDETS visited San Francisco in California. There we met Ms. Anne Treseder, a lawyer and a member of ETAN San Francisco branch, and Ms. Clara Landeiro, a research worker of environment studying at San Francisco University.

These two ladies willingly agreed to join the organization of United States Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School. They promised to start positive activities after they achieved the first stage of their movement. They are now demanding the United States government to pass a bill to withhold the whole weapons exports to Indonesia until the oppression of East Timorese human rights be abstaind.

They also promised that they would appeal to the whole people in California such as Catholic association of Portuguese Americans for donation to our school project

We offered several Tetun class pictures taken on Aug. 10 1993 for their publicity activities.

(After we returned to Japan we were informed that the above mentioned bill was passed at the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate.

We were deeply impressed by the fruitful result of ETAN/USA's positive appeal to Congressmen.

We must learn many things from the citizens' movement of USA which can change the policy of its own government by people's influence.)

* Conclusion

We would like to conclude this report on the fifth support of JSCDETS in Aug. 1993. We are very grateful for your support and cooperation. Please take a look at the refugee children's smile. They are growing cheerful and stout even though they were deprived of their homeland by invasion. We wish these children's smile may not vanish and that they may be able to join the rebuilding of their homeland hopefully. So we, citizens supporting them, should keep the solidarity from now on.

We hope your instructive suggestions and support as before.

Those who approve our project, please give us your help and cooperation.

Your support will do whatever kind or whatever shape.

Thanking you in advance.

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(Please phone beforehand if you use Japanese bank)

Note:JSCDETS=Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timorese School

The children of
Darwin East Timorese School

10th August 1993

Interview with Mr.& Mrs.Branco at the Studio of Top End FM

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FOR
DARWIN EAST TIMORESE SCHOOL

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